

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 13, 2014

The Honorable Christy Clark  
M.L.A., Westside - Kelowna  
Premier of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W9E1

Dear Premier Clark:

We are very disappointed to learn that the development of a new sewage treatment facility at McLoughlin Point has been delayed. For the last 20 years, American citizens have waited for solutions to water quality issues linked to British Columbia's sewage discharge. Unfortunately, while Canada has acknowledged the importance of addressing this concern, there is now no plan to mitigate the persistent water pollution from Victoria, British Columbia.

As you know, more than 82 million liters of effluent without secondary treatment is being dumped into our shared waters in the Strait of Juan de Fuca every day. This type of pollution is not only detrimental to ecosystem vitality, but also can have dire human health consequences. This is simply unacceptable. We urge you to work with your colleagues at the local and federal level to find an agreeable solution so that an appropriate treatment facility is completed as soon as possible.

The strength of our economies in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia depends on the health of our waterways and natural resources. Washington state supports more than 67,000 commercial fishing jobs, in addition to our vibrant recreational fishing, boating, watersport, and tourism businesses. The practice of discharging this type and volume of waste violates environmental standards commonly held by our two nations. Furthermore, while significant treatment efforts have been made on the United States side of our maritime border, the effectiveness of these efforts is undermined without cross-border collaboration, treatment, and restoration activities.

In fact, scientists in both of our home countries have seen perpetually decreasing dissolved oxygen levels in our waters—an outcome linked with untreated sewage discharge. These changing dissolved oxygen levels endanger sensitive aquatic habitats vital to the Puget Sound's marine economy. Together, we must work to ensure that we have adequate wastewater treatment facilities so that we can improve dissolved oxygen levels and the overall water quality in the Salish Sea to protect human health and the marine ecosystem.

Our countries have worked hard to coordinate international collaboration on major environmental problems in the past and we hope to work together to solve this problem. Since its inception in 2003, the U.S. and Canada have established the largest, most

comprehensive ecosystem conference in the region – the biennial Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference. This conference is a great example of how the U.S. and British Columbia have collaborated to bring together experts from interdisciplinary fields to discuss scientific research and chart a course for protecting and restoring the Salish Sea ecosystem.

The Salish Sea is an economic and cultural lifeline for the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. In fact, Washington state's maritime economy supports 30 billion dollars in economic activity each year and provides 148,000 jobs. Due to the importance of these waters to both our countries, we ask that you work promptly to resolve this issue. Furthermore, as we continue to work towards restoring the Salish Sea for generations to come, we welcome ongoing collaboration on restoration, research and preservation efforts to best serve our people and our waterways. We hope you will stand with us as we work to improve the quality of our waters and reduce unnecessary pollution.

Sincerely,



DEREK KILMER  
Member of Congress



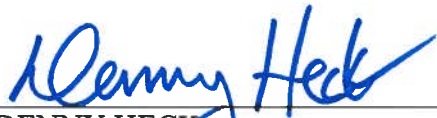
MARIA CANTWELL  
U.S. Senator



PATTY MURRAY  
U.S. Senator




RICK LARSEN  
Member of Congress



DENNY HECK  
Member of Congress




SUZAN DELBENE  
Member of Congress



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JIM MCDERMOTT  
Member of Congress



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ADAM SMITH  
Member of Congress

cc: The Right Honorable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister  
The Honorable John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
His Excellency Gary Doer, Ambassador of Canada to the United States  
The Honorable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment  
The Honorable Bruce Heyman, American Ambassador to Canada  
The Honorable Barbara Desjardins, Mayor of the Town of Esquimalt  
The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State  
The Honorable Penny Pritzker, Secretary of Commerce  
The Honorable Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency  
The Honorable Kathryn Sullivan, Undersecretary of Oceans and Atmosphere